

# MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

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MEMO TO: House Health Policy Committee  
FROM: Alan Mindlin, MD, President  
RE: House Bill 4893

On behalf of the more than 14,000 physicians of the Michigan State Medical Society, I am writing in opposition to House Bill 4893 as currently written. This legislation codifies licensure for athletic trainers that includes provisions for title protection, the creation of a scope of practice, as well as other administrative requirements.

House bill 4893 stipulates that athletic trainers shall practice under the direction and supervision of a physician. This is an important element in ensuring that the collaboration that currently exists between physicians and athletic trainers continues to exist for the benefit of the patients they both serve. However, the language that defines what types of injuries may be treated by athletic trainers is overly broad and potentially beyond the training level of these prospective licensees. Specifically, the scope of practice for athletic trainers is based on the cause of the injury rather than the nature or severity of the injury.

The language reads,

"PRACTICE OF ATHLETIC TRAINING" MEANS THE PREVENTION, ASSESSMENT, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION OF ATHLETIC INJURIES UNDER THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF A PHYSICIAN."

Additionally, the language defining what constitutes an athletic injury does little to limit what types of injuries could potentially be treated by athletic trainers. The absence of any specificity regarding what types injuries may be treated create uncertainty about the impact of this legislation. Therefore, as written, the Michigan State Medical Society is unable to support this legislation at this time.